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## Erie County Public Library participates in Winter Reading Challenge 2021

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library together with The Public Libraries of Erie County\* announces participation in Beanstack's annual Winter Reading Challenge from Friday, Jan. 1, to Sunday, Feb. 28. All public libraries within Erie County will offer this program thanks to the generous support of Friends of the Erie County Public Library. All ages are invited to participate.

The 2021 theme, "Books Like Us," is sponsored by Simon & Schuster. Titles from the "Books Like Us" collection feature powerful stories from diverse voices, allowing readers to identify and connect with characters that reflect their own parratives.

Beginning Jan. 1, patrons are challenged to read at least 10 hours during the challenge and track their reading on the challenge site. The Public Libraries of Erie County join thousands of libraries and schools across the nation to participate in this winter reading challenge. There will also be optional activities, including discussion opportunities, throughout the challenge.

Unlike Erie County Public Library's Summer Library Challenges, participants will read collectively to achieve community prizes, including book collections and virtual author visits to those communities with the most amount of participation. Ten winning schools or libraries will each get a collection of 50 books from the "Books Like Us" collection.

Readers can register online at <a href="https://erielibrary.beanstack.org">https://erielibrary.beanstack.org</a>, or download the Beanstack app to register and participate on a mobile device. Questions can be directed to Shane Donaldson, Erie County Public Library manager of youth services, at 814-451-6928 or <a href="mailto:library-reference@eriecountypa.gov">library-reference@eriecountypa.gov</a>.

Read more about Beanstack's Winter Reading Challenge at <a href="https://bit.ly/2WZICk3">https://bit.ly/2WZICk3</a> and follow #WinterRead2021 on social media.

\*Public Libraries of Erie County include Albion Public Library, Rice Avenue Community Library, Waterford Public Library, Union City Public Library, Corry Public Library, and McCord Memorial Library.

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